

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 21, 23-25 have been amended. Claims 10, 12-15, and 17-28 remain pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 10, 12-15 and 17-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite "a door window" in line 12, thereby providing proper antecedent basis for "the door window" recited later in claim 10 and the claims depending therefrom.

Claim 12 has been amended to recite "the door window when fully retracted" on lines 3 and 4 to clarify the door window is referring to the previously introduced door window in claim 10.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite "a door for a vehicle" providing clarity and proper antecedent basis for "the vehicle" and "the door" referred to later in claim 15 and the claims depending therefrom.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite "a door window when fully retracted" and refer to the other references to "the door window" consistently.

Claim 23 has been amended to recite "a door of a vehicle" in line 2,

thereby providing proper antecedent basis for "the vehicle" referred to elsewhere in claim 23.

Claim 25 was amended to recite "the interior" clarifying the interior refers to the previously introduced interior in claim 23.

Applicants contend in view of the aforementioned amendments, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is now moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19-21, 23-25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over German Patent Publication No. 195 09 282 (GP '282) in view of Wilson ("Wilson") and Renner et al. ("Renner").

The present invention is a component support assembly that includes a rigid double shell box structure. The box structure has a first wall adjacent or facing the interior of the vehicle and a second wall positioned or facing toward the exterior of the vehicle. Independent claims 10, 15, 20 and 23 provide a plurality of vehicle door components mounted to said first wall. The vehicle door components being mounted to the first wall provides benefits relative to modularity and manufacturability.

With regard to GP '282, the Examiner contends the first inner wall corresponds to 5a and the second outer wall corresponds to 3. Further, the Examiner previously noted "vehicle door components 4, 90 and 91 are mounted to the second wall".

The Examiner also contends that vehicle door components (namely switches 92; 93) are mounted directly to the first wall because they extend through openings in the first wall. Applicants must respectfully disagree that merely extending through an opening of the first wall constitutes being *directly mounted* to the inner wall. "Being mounted to" and "extending through" are not synonymous and have vastly different meanings. "Being directly mounted" to something requires that the two items are secured together without an intervening part. "Extending through" something does not require the two items to be secured together at all, let alone without an intervening part. Accordingly, GP '282 does not teach or suggest vehicle door components directly mounted to the first wall as claimed. Therefore, GP '282 is directly contrary to and does not teach or suggest the present invention.

In addition, Renner does not teach or suggest vehicle components being mounted to the first wall of a double-shell box structure. Nor does the Examiner assert such, as the Examiner relied on Renner with regard to the curved window shape of the door panel.

Further, the Examiner contends it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to mount the airbag restraint system of GP '282 to the first wall based on the airbag in Wilson being mounted directly to an inner wall of the door. However, Wilson shows the airbag mounted to an inner wall that does not correspond to the first wall of a double-shell box structure as defined in the present application. Therefore, Wilson does not teach the door component, namely an airbag assembly, to be directly mounted to the first wall so as to be

located within the enclosed volume created by the first wall and second wall of the double-shell box structure. Further, Wilson only teaches a single vehicle door component and does not teach or suggest a plurality of vehicle door components being mounted to the inner wall of the door. For at least the reasons mentioned above, Applicants contend GP '282 in view of either Renner or Wilson do not teach or suggest the present invention.

With respect to claims 12, 14, 17, 18-21, 24, 25, 27, and 28, these claims ultimately depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 10, 15, 19, or 23 and are, therefore, patentable for at least the same reasons given above in support of claims 10, 15, 19, or 23. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 13, 18, 22 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GP '282 in view of Wilson and Renner as applied to claims 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19-21, 23-25, 27 and 28 above, and further in view of Finch et al. ("Finch").

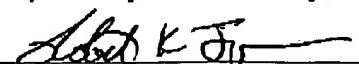
Finch does not teach or suggest a plurality of vehicle door components mounted to the first inner wall as claimed. Therefore, Finch does not teach or suggest the element noted as absent above. Accordingly, GP '282 in view of Renner, Wilson and Finch cannot render the claims 13, 18, 22 and 27 unpatentable for at least the reasons mentioned above in support of claims 10, 15, 19, and 23. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted by,

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